

O P 270531Z FEB 09  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KYIV PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 018323

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/12/2019  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [SENV](#) [KGHG](#) [EAID](#) [ECIN](#) [ECON](#) [EUN](#)  
SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY STEINBERG'S FEBRUARY 13, 2009  
MEETING WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESIDENT'S CHIEF OF  
STAFF JOAO VALE DE ALMEIDA

(U) Classified by Acting EUR Assistant Secretary Marcie  
Ries for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[¶1.](#) (U) February 13, 2008; 8:30-9:00 a.m.; Washington,  
D.C., USA.

[¶2.](#) (U) Participants:

U.S.

-----

The Deputy Secretary  
EUR - PDAS Marcie Ries  
EUR/ERA Director - William Lucas  
D Staff - Mary Sue Conaway  
EUR/ERA Deputy Director - Jonathan Kessler (note taker)

EU

--

European Commission President's Chief of Staff - Joao Vale  
de Almeida  
Chief of Staff to the External Relation Commissioner -  
Patrick Child  
European Commission President's Diplomatic Advisor -  
Fernando Andresen Guimaraes  
European Commission Representation DCM - Angelos Pangratis  
European Commission Representation Political Min Couns -  
Luc Veron

[¶3.](#) (C) Vale de Almeida told Deputy Secretary Steinberg  
the Commission President was committed to a joint  
partnership with the U.S. The Deputy Secretary wanted to  
build that partnership on a broader set of issues and  
pointed to the G-8 sherpa process as a possible model for  
U.S.-EU policy coordination. Vale de Almeida cited the  
Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC) as a current example  
of relatively effective U.S.-EU cooperation.

[¶4.](#) (C) The Deputy Secretary called for U.S.-EU joint  
work on Afghanistan and Gaza. The EU side suggested  
improved civil-military cooperation was necessary in  
Afghanistan, and that it may be an appropriate time to  
rethink the Quartet process. Both agreed on closer  
cooperation on climate change -- with Vale de Almeida  
calling on the U.S. to help the EU with developing  
countries, especially China, India, and Brazil -- and  
energy security, with Vale de Almeida warning that the  
Russia-Ukraine gas transit problem was by no means fully  
resolved.

[¶5.](#) (C) Vale de Almeida closed by pressing for the  
President to meet with the 27 EU Heads of State on his  
first visit to Europe and for Secretary Clinton to meet  
President Barroso and select Commission members when she  
visits Brussels on her March NATO Ministerial trip, noting  
the symbolic importance of these first visits. DepSec  
Steinberg suggested that, while meetings had their role,  
we needed to focus on real achievements.

CLINTON